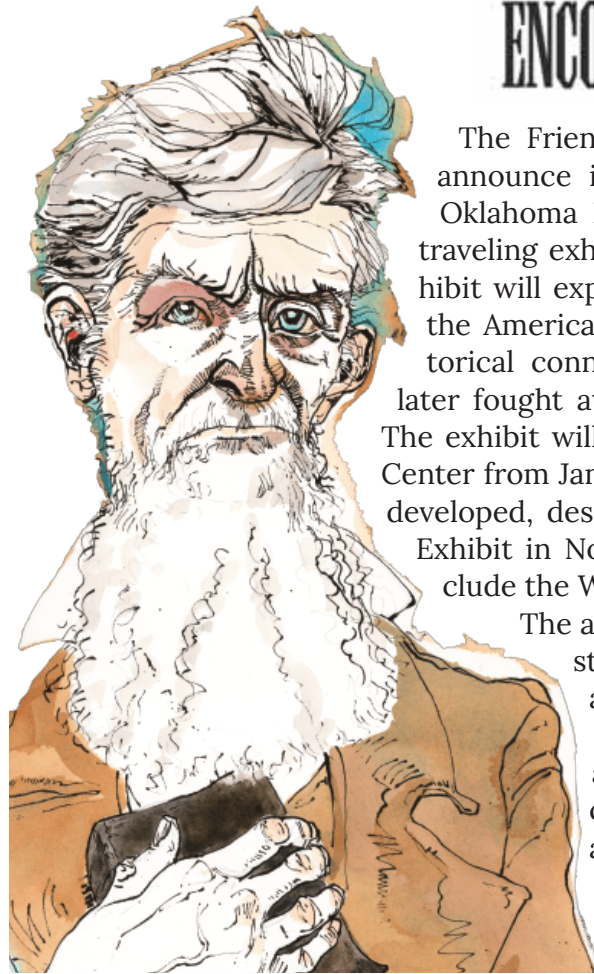




ENCOUNTERING JOHN BROWN



The Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield is pleased to announce it has received an almost \$9,000 grant from Oklahoma Humanities. The grant will assist in funding a traveling exhibit entitled *Encountering John Brown*. The exhibit will explore the history of the man who helped ignite the American Civil War. It will also provide important historical connections between John Brown and those who later fought at the Battle of Honey Springs on July 17, 1863. The exhibit will be displayed inside the Honey Springs Visitor Center from January 9–March 2. *Encountering John Brown* was developed, designed, built, and toured by Overland Traveling Exhibit in North Newton, Kansas. Founding institutions include the Watkins Museum of History in Lawrence, Kansas.

The abolitionist John Brown spoke out against the institution of slavery and slaveholding in hopes that all people, no matter their race or background, would eventually share freedom equally. Brown also led a group of fellow abolitionists in armed conflicts against pro-slave Missouri border ruffians before the outbreak of the Civil War with the assistance of James G. Blunt, William Addison Phillips, Josiah Hinton, and others who would later organize one of the most culturally diverse U.S.

armies (Army of the Frontier) ever formed in the entire Civil War. These same Brown men led this army, which consisted of three Union Native Home Guards and the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which was the first Black Unit to see combat in the entire Civil War. Additionally, these regiments consisted of many Freedmen who had self-liberated themselves from present-day Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas. They would fight for their freedoms and homes at the Battle of Honey Springs and the Civil War in Indian Territory. The exhibit will also provide historical narrative, firsthand accounts, and vivid illustrations of Americans, from widely recognized to largely unknown, whose lives were altered by their encounters with Brown—following America's most prominent abolitionist from the cradle to the grave and beyond. For more information, call 918-617-7125 or email honeysprings@history.ok.gov.



OKLAHOMA
HUMANITIES

Funding for this program is provided in part by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OH.

Celebrating the contributions of Oklahoma historians

The Oklahoma Historical Society is pleased to announce our annual Awards Banquet which will take place at 6 p.m. on **Thursday, March 21**, at the Oklahoma History Center. The event celebrates the contributions of historians, educators, students, and civic leaders and their impact on our efforts to collect, preserve, and share the history of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

Among the awards presented, two individuals will be inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame for their distinguished contributions to Oklahoma history. Recipients are celebrated for their lifelong dedication and excellence in preserving, collecting, interpreting, and disseminating the state's story. In addition, the Guardian of History Award will acknowledge elected officials for their efforts in safeguarding Oklahoma's rich heritage. Educators, students, writers, and individuals in our community who advance our understanding of history and have made extraordinary efforts to preserve our state's past will also be recognized.

More information regarding ticket sales is forthcoming. Direct sponsorship inquiries to Brittney Berling, OHS development officer, at brittney.berling@history.ok.gov.



“The History of John Brown” upcoming presentation

On Saturday, February 3, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Honey Springs Battlefield, author and teaching associate professor at Oklahoma State University **Dr. Jennifer Murray** will present “The History of John Brown.”

Dr. Murray's presentation will supplement the history presented in the *Encountering John Brown* exhibit and add new insight into the connections of those who fought with John Brown during the “Bleeding Kansas” years before fighting at the Battle of Honey Springs on July 17, 1863. She is the primary scholar for the *Encountering John Brown* traveling exhibit.

“Fewer people are as intrinsically linked to the sectional crisis of the American Civil War than John Brown,” said Dr. Murray.

Dr. Murray is a military historian specializing in the American Civil War. She is also a former seasonal interpretive park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park. Murray has delivered hundreds of Civil War battlefield tours, is a veteran faculty member at Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute, and is a coveted speaker at Civil War symposiums and roundtables.



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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By Trait Thompson

This past year, I experienced some notable personal loss in my family. Within six months, I lost both my father and stepfather. These men helped me become the person I am today. While my stepfather's death was sudden and unexpected, we knew my father was dying as he experienced the unrelenting onslaught of cancer.

Going about my work leading the Oklahoma Historical Society gives me a reason every day to revisit the organization's mission—to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. When I apply these same precepts to gathering and preserving the history of my family members, it is worthwhile but somehow more challenging.

I have always valued my family's history, yet even in my father's final days, I was still discovering new things about him as I asked questions about his life. For example, I learned he had been jailed in Saudi Arabia for a short time while working on an oil drilling rig. That's a wild story, and I will have to recount the details for you in another column. I also had the chance to ask him about his younger years growing up in the small central Texas town of Ballinger.

As much as I tried to learn about his history before he passed, I still wonder about some of the details of his life. Now, I'm left to talk to his siblings, members of the family, and his friends to piece the story of his life together.

I mention this to encourage you to engage with your family members while they are

still around. You can preserve their stories for future generations by following these simple guidelines.

1. Make an appointment with each of your parents or grandparents to record their oral histories. Use the recording app on your phone, and make sure you're in a quiet place with very little background noise. Sketch out a few basic questions to get the conversation started. Ask them about their parents and where they lived after they were born. Ask about their siblings and childhoods. Don't hesitate to have them share funny stories—these are the ones that are often left out because we think oral histories must be so serious.

2. Go through old photo albums and digitize photos of your family. I started doing this several years ago on every trip I made back home. You don't need a bunch of fancy equipment to do this. I use a free scanning app on my phone, of which there are many to choose from. Scanning the photos or taking an image with your cell phone allows you to document, save, and share the pictures with other family members.

3. Use the resources available at the Oklahoma Historical Society to learn more about your family members who are no longer around. Visit the Gateway to Oklahoma History (gateway.okhistory.org) and type in the person's name. In this digital repository, you can search for digitized photos and any mention of their names in countless Oklahoma newspapers. You can also come to the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Library at the Oklahoma History Center, and our knowledgeable staff members will be more than happy to assist you with your genealogical research.

Learning about our family history helps each of us understand ourselves better. It's a worthy endeavor, and we at the Oklahoma Historical Society want to be your partner on this important journey.

Preserving oral histories

Voices of Oklahoma operates in partnership with the Oklahoma Historical Society. The project is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and sharing the oral histories of famous Oklahomans and ordinary citizens who shaped the state's complex history.

The Voices of Oklahoma interviews, conducted by radio personality John Erling, are searchable by topic or name and are a great



source of information for students, educators, and historians alike. To learn more, visit voicesofoklahoma.com.

Dressing the part

This summer, the Oklahoma History Center Museum (OHCM) will be dressed to the nines and open an exhibit in the Noble Gallery highlighting the gowns Oklahoma's first ladies wore to their inaugural balls. The exhibit *Inaugural Impressions: Oklahoma's First Ladies Go to the Ball* will open to the public on Friday, June 7. The show will contextualize their roles by highlighting how they presented themselves to the public at the inaugurations of their husbands. An array of fashions worn by first ladies will be displayed, along with biographies that explore their contributions to the people of Oklahoma.

Many of Oklahoma's first ladies have taken a leading role in our state's history as dedicated homemakers and mothers, political activists, or by raising money and awareness for social causes. The exhibit will encourage visitors to walk in the shoes of Oklahoma's first ladies, from Lillian Haskell, to the first female governor, Mary Fallin, while learning more about the state's history. Save the date for *Inaugural Impressions*, coming this summer!

The inaugural dresses of Mary Fallin (left), and Rhonda Walters, (right) (2019.007.012 and 1991.059.001, OHS Collections).



Enoch Kelly Haney's (Seminole/Mvskoke) *Keepers of the Traditions* detail, acrylic on canvas (2021.105).

Into the Mirror

In March, the OHCM will open the exhibit *Into the Mirror* featuring the artwork of Indigenous artists Buffalo Meat (Cheyenne), 1847-1917; Carl Sweezy (Arapaho), c. 1879-1953; Stephen Mopope (Kiowa), 1898-1974; James Auchiah (Kiowa), 1906-1974; Archie Blackowl (Cheyenne), 1911-1992; Woodrow Wilson "Woody" Crumbo (Citizen Potawatomi), 1912-1989; Woodrow Wilson "Woody" Big Bow (Kiowa), 1914-1988; Willard Stone (Cherokee), 1916-1985; Herman Toppah (Kiowa), 1923-1980; Enoch Kelly Haney (Seminole/Mvskoke), 1940-2022; Jerome Richard Tiger (Mvskoke/Seminole), 1941-1967; Ed Defender (Standing Rock Sioux), c. 1953-1999.

The exhibit challenges market-driven depictions of Indigenous peoples by showcasing the works of Indigenous artists to provide an authentic perspective. It will open on Saturday, March 30, and remain open to the public through January 31, 2025.

Kilgen schedule change

In 2024, the Kilgen Theatre Organ performances will be held on the third Monday of each performance month.

The performances will take place on February 19, featuring organist Tedde Gibson accompanying the silent film *Captain January* (1924); April 15, featuring the talents of Rosemary Bailey; September 16, with organist Brett Valliant; and November 18, when Dennis Scott will accompany the silent film *Speedy* (1928) featuring Harold Lloyd. As always, the performances will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for OHS members and \$20 for the general public. To purchase tickets to the Kilgen events, visit okhistory.org/tickets.



Organist Tedde Gibson will perform at the Oklahoma History Center on the evening of February 19. Image courtesy teddegibson.com.

Will Rogers to be featured on OETA's *Back in Time* series

On Tuesday, January 9, at noon, the Will Rogers Memorial Museum (WRMM) will premiere *Back in Time: "Will Rogers, Oklahoma's Favorite Son."*

OETA has partnered with the museum to arrange the first screening of this feature in the museum's theater. A panel discussion and a question-and-answer session with *Back in Time* producer Robert Burch and WRMM experts will follow the screening. This event is free but does require registration. Visit willrogers.com/eventcalendar to learn more.

Spring cleaning book sale

On Monday, February 19, and Tuesday, February 20, the WRMM will have its Spring Cleaning Book Sale. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. The museum is working to clean out duplicate copies of books and other materials in preparation for the development of WRMM's new facility. The sale is a good opportunity for the public to purchase books and treasures!

Tallchief costumes to join OHS collections

The Oklahoma History Center is pleased to announce that a collection of Maria Tallchief's dance costumes and personal effects will be donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society Collection in 2024.

Maria Tallchief (1925-2013) was born in Fairfax on the Osage reservation—where she learned Osage traditions from her grandmother, Eliza Bigheart Tall Chief.

In the late 1940s, Maria Tallchief became America's first major prima ballerina. She was also the first Native American to earn that title. Tallchief revolutionized ballet and received numerous awards in her career, including the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors in 1996. She broke barriers as a Native American ballet dancer, exhibiting strength and resilience on and off the stage.

Maria Tallchief and her sister Marjorie Tallchief, Rosella Hightower, Moscelyne Larkin, and Yvonne Chouteau, were known as the Five Moons—Oklahoma's renowned Native American ballerinas. The group of five women revolutionized ballet and gained international recognition during their careers.

Tallchief was recently named as the 10th honoree in the American Women Quarters™ Program.



Maria Tallchief (2012.201. B1289.0027, OPUBCO, OHS).



OHS Calendar of Events

January

- 5 Silver Selections from the *USS Oklahoma* exhibit closes, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 6 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 7 Osage Ribbonwork class with Ruth Shaw, White Hair Memorial, Fairfax
- 9 *Encountering John Brown* exhibit opens, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 9 OETA's *Back in Time: "Will Rogers, Oklahoma's Favorite Son"* premiere screening, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 10 Lunch and Learn: "Canadian County Jail" presentation with Amy Neathery webinar, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 14 Osage Ribbonwork class with Ruth Shaw, White Hair Memorial, Fairfax
- 17 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 18 Historic Preservation Review Committee Meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 20 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 20 "Make Your Own Tea Blend: Grown in Oklahoma" workshop, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 24 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 25 *Oklahoma-Built Excellence: GM OKC* exhibit opens, Oklahoma History Center Museum, Oklahoma City
- 30 OCSS State Conference, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

February

- 1 Antique Doll exhibit opens, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
- 3 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 3 "The History of John Brown" presentation by Dr. Jennifer Murray, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 8 Everyday Oklahoma: Fascinating Stories about Familiar Places: "All-Black Towns in Oklahoma" with Gina Sofola and Kory Van Hemert webinar, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City
- 9 *Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of the Negro Leagues* exhibit opens, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 9 Museum After Dark: Date Night at the Museum, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid

- 10 "Crochet a Little: Flowers for Valentine's Day" workshop with Avril Martin, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 13 Lunch and Learn: "Preserving Dr. W. H. Slaughter's Home and Family Legacy" webinar, State Historic Preservation Office
- 14 "Pal"-entine's Mixer, Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue, Ponca City
- 14 Valentine's Day Couples Night, Pioneer Woman Statue and Museum, Ponca City
- 15 Art Night, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 17 History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19 Kilgen Theatre Organ performance featuring Tedde Gibson and the silent film *Captain January* (1924), Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19-20 Spring Cleaning Book Sale, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore
- 21 Oklahoma Historical Society Executive Committee meeting, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 29 Antique Doll exhibit closes, Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy

Please visit okhistory.org/events for additional information about OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

Popular program continues to bring history to life

History Alive! on the Cherokee Strip, a living history program at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid, will return for another year. It takes place on the first and third Saturday of each month from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The four historic buildings in the Humphrey Heritage Village come to life with reenactors dressed in period clothing from the late 1800s. Whether sitting at desks in the one-room Turkey Creek schoolhouse or filing a land claim at the historic 1893 US Land Office, the event promises educational experiences for all ages.

The History Alive! program began in 2019 and has grown in popularity. History Alive! is included with paid admission. Volunteers are always needed. For more information about the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, please call 580-237-1907 or visit www.csrhc.org.

A living history reenactor demonstrates sewing skills at CSRHC.



On Friday, February 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., impress your Valentine with a date night at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid! Inside the museum, couples can explore the exhibit galleries, hors d'oeuvres, and a choice of romantic beverages to supplement their experience through the museum. The Humphrey Heritage Village will be open as a part of this "Museum After Dark" event for participants to see Oklahoma's history in a new light! Don't miss this unique Valentine's date night opportunity! Date Night at the Museum is \$25 per person. Call 580-237-1907 for more information.



Celebrate Valentine's Day

On Wednesday, February 14, the Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue in Ponca City will open its doors for two special events to celebrate Valentine's Day. The after-hours events are geared for adults looking to celebrate Valentine's Day.

First, in the early evening, from 4 to 6 p.m., a "Pal"-entine's Mixer for singles and friends to celebrate will feature gallery strolls, drinks, hors d'oeuvres, sweet treats, music, and shopping. Guests will enjoy a 10% discount in the museum's gift shop. The "Pal"entine's gathering will be \$15 per person, and reservations will be required.

Then, in the evening, between 7 and 9 p.m., the sweet celebrations will continue with a Valentine's Day Couples Night. This date night experience will encourage couples to take a turn through the museum's galleries while listening to romantic music and partaking of drinks, hor d'oeuvres, and Valentine's treats. After viewing the galleries, guests can shop with a 10% discount on all items.

At the events, consignment items in the gift shop will not be discounted. The Couples Night will cost \$15 per person. For more information, call 580-765-6108.

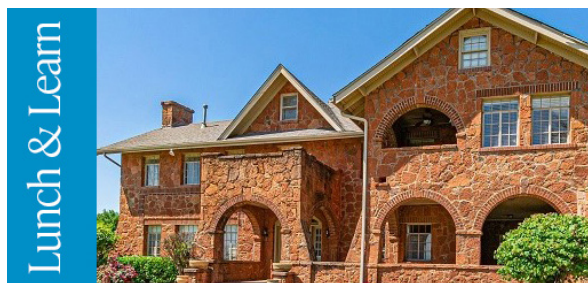
Historic Preservation Fund project suggestions

The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) administers the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); comments on the effects of federal undertakings on archeological and historic resources; develops the statewide preservation plan; administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program; provides comments to the National Park Service about rehabilitation projects proposed for federal tax credits; and provides public outreach programs and technical assistance to preservation professionals, government agencies, and interested citizens. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$1,102,117.00 from the HPF for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

The SHPO's statewide preservation plan, now available for years 2020-2024 at okhistory.org/stateplan, sets forth the statewide preservation community's goals and objectives. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are a continuation of the archeological and historic/architectural resources survey program, with special emphasis on resources associated with underrepresented peoples, and extension of survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of NRHP nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your project ideas and recommended priorities for the SHPO's federal fiscal year activities will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

The project suggestion form will be available online through okhistory.org/shpo (or through hard copy by request). The form can be submitted electronically at any point during the year but will only be considered for the next funding cycle which is available (the SHPO is governed by the federal fiscal year which runs from October 1-September 30).

Visit the SHPO website at okhistory.org/projectsuggestion. Contact Lynda Ozan at 405-522-4484 or lozan@history.ok.gov with questions or to receive a hard copy of the form.



On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at noon, SHPO will have a Lunch and Learn webinar focused on the efforts underway to preserve the home and family legacy of Dr. Wyatt H. Slaughter, Oklahoma City's first Black doctor, and his wife, Mrs. Edna Randolph-Slaughter. Visit okhistory.org/shpo/events to register.

NRHP nomination grants available from the SHPO

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announces its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$12,000 of its FY 2023 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the US Department of the Interior for the program. Applications are accepted February 1 through April 30. Each grant is limited to \$3,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal cash match of at least \$2,000. Grant recipients will use the grant funds and nonfederal match to retain an appropriately qualified professional to prepare a complete individual property nomination package for the NRHP. Applicants must be aware that \$5,000 (federal grant + nonfederal match) is only an estimate of the cost for such projects and that more than the minimum \$2,000 nonfederal match may be necessary to cover the consultant fee. Consultants must consider the nature of the property proposed for nomination and many other factors as they develop their fee proposals. The NRHP is the catalog of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes important in our past. While listing is not a guarantee of preservation or financial assistance, the NRHP status of a property is often critical to the strategy for its preservation. The NRHP provides increased public awareness of these irreplaceable resources, provides limited protection for them, qualifies property owners for federal and state tax credits under certain circumstances, and may qualify the property owner for grant assistance when such programs are funded. To obtain an application form, go to okhistory.org/nrgrant. You may also contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249.

SHPO announces HPRC's 2024 meeting schedule

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee's (HPRC) meeting schedule for calendar year 2024. The governor appoints the members of the HPRC to advise the SHPO about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and other preservation issues. Current HPRC members include Ron Frantz (architect, Oklahoma City); John Hartley (prehistoric archaeologist, Norman); Shirley Ballard Nero (historian, Clearview); Jana Phillips (architectural historian, Stillwater); and Charles Wallis (historical archaeologist, Norman).

The HPRC's 2024 meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, April 18, July 18, and October 17. The meetings are open to the public and will be held in the LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. Meeting agendas, log-in details and NRHP nominations under consideration will be available at okhistory.org/shpo/hprc.

The National Park Service regulations governing the SHPO's programs require that a qualified state review board participate in the NRHP and other SHPO programs. During each meeting, the HPRC hears presentations on NRHP nominations from SHPO staff and consultants; receives comments from owners of properties proposed for nomination; listens to public comments and concerns; and formulates recommendations to the SHPO about whether or not a property should be nominated. The HPRC and SHPO staff invite concerned citizens and preservation professionals to participate in this important component of Oklahoma's preservation program. For information about any of the SHPO's programs, please call 405-521-6249 or visit okhistory.org/shpo.



On Wednesday, January 10, at noon, SHPO will have a Lunch and Learn webinar focused on the efforts to preserve the old Canadian County jail. The featured speaker will be Amy Neathery with Preservation El Reno. Visit okhistory.org/shpo/events to register.

The Emmet Starr Collection

By Jan Richardson

Emmet McDonald Starr was born in 1870 in the Going Snake District of the Cherokee Nation, which is now part of Rogers County. The surname “Starr” has Irish origins, and Emmet Starr’s great-grandfather, Caleb Starr, was a Pennsylvania Quaker who married into the Cherokee Indian Tribe. In 1888, Starr graduated from the Cherokee Male Seminary in Tahlequah, and in 1891, he earned his medical degree from Barnes Medical College in St. Louis, Missouri.

Initially, he practiced medicine, but later, he pursued his true passion as a historian of the Cherokee Nation. Dr. Starr’s contributions to Cherokee history are well-documented in his books, which include *Early History of the Cherokees*, *Cherokees “West”: 1794–1839*, and *History of the Cherokee Indians and Their Legends and Folk Lore*. These books are available for viewing in the John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick Research Library at the Oklahoma History Center. In 1901, he was elected to serve a two-year term as a representative for the Cooweescoowee District on the Cherokee National Council. He also played a role in opposing Oklahoma statehood as a delegate to the Sequoyah Convention in 1905.

The Emmet Starr Collection (1981.103, 21 boxes), contains papers dating from 1870 to 1930. These papers encompass notes, documents, and genealogy materials related to the Cherokee Indians.

Starr’s collection includes Civil War records, Cherokee National records, and Creek family histories. The collection also contains notes related to Starr’s books and other research materials.

The Emmet Starr Collection is available for viewing at the Research

The cover of one of Emmet Starr’s titles *Cherokees “West”: 1794–1839*.

Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Appointments are encouraged. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. For more information call 405-522-5225 or email research@okhistory.org.

Jan H. Richardson is the processing archivist in the OHS Research Division’s Manuscript Archives.



Longest-tenured OHS employee retires

This fall, Kathy Dickson retired after **44 years** of work with the Oklahoma Historical Society. After graduation, she took a job as an OHS seasonal employee and rose to the rank of Director of Museums and Historic Sites. She held that position for 19 years of her long tenure at OHS. Dickson managed multiple historic sites, historic homes, and museums in all corners of the state. She worked with personnel, budgets, development, coordinated exhibits, and oversaw repairs and restoration.

Whether fundraising, grant writing, or developing special events and programs, her love of history was always evident.

In the course of her career, Dickson has served as the president of the Oklahoma Museums Association and the Mountain-Plains Museums Association and as a board member and president of The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM). She also served as co-chair for the 2018 ALHFAM Annual Meeting. Dickson has always believed in the educational power of bringing objects to life by being used—even plowing fields behind a couple of Percheron horses, wearing a corset!

Dickson worked for many years to develop Hunter’s Home in Park Hill into a living history farm in partnership with the Cherokee Nation. She brought history to life alongside OHS staff by incorporating gardening and raising livestock into the site’s programming.

Whether she was clocking the countless miles to visit sites, hand-dying cloth, demonstrating her abilities as a seamstress, or making apple butter, she was a dedicated staff member and teacher who left big shoes to fill in the agency.

New Oklahoma National Register listings

The Oklahoma Historical Society and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are pleased to announce two new National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listings for Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation’s official list of properties significant in our past.



Bank of Drummond, Garfield County

Constructed in 1908, the Bank of Drummond is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its economic significance. The building was designed by architect A. A. Crowell of Enid and built by contractor C. H. Myers. A continuous series of semicircular arched window bays is arranged along the building’s exterior elevations, while the interior features two historic bank vaults. The bank was the economic institution for downtown Drummond, operating at its historic location on Main Street until 1969. The bank steadily increased its financial resources throughout this period. Additionally, the bank’s advertisements in local newspapers reflected the needs and concerns of citizens whose economic well-being depended upon the successful development of Drummond. Such advertisements and bank records make clear that the Bank of Drum-

mond served as the economic anchor from which the town survived and thrived.



Will Rogers Memorial Library, Rogers County

Constructed in 1937, the Will Rogers Memorial Library takes its name from the famous humorist William Penn Adair Rogers, who donated proceeds from the sale of his father’s property in downtown Claremore to help fund the construction of a library. The property is significant for its association with federal New Deal relief programs, specifically the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The combination of Rogers’s gracious donation and federal financial support reflected a concerted effort among local officials to utilize New Deal programs to improve public amenities. Upon completion, the library immediately met the community’s educational and social needs. The building continues to serve in an educational and social capacity by functioning as the Claremore Museum of History.

Listing in the National Register provides recognition, limited protection and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation. For detailed information, contact Matthew Pearce at 405-522-4479 or matthew.pearce@history.ok.gov.



Jeffrey Briley seated on a replica of Woody the Birthday Horse from *Circle Four Ranch Show*—a popular children’s program on WKY-TV in the 1960s.

Mr. Briley has left the building

Jeffrey Briley has retired after a 45-year career with the state of Oklahoma. He has most recently served as the director of collections and interim director of the Oklahoma History Center Museum (OHCM).

The strength of his career has been telling and sharing the stories of the state’s collections—an area of the museum he knows well.

A sign above his computer reads *Tutto Fa Brodo*, an old Italian saying that translates to “everything makes a broth (soup).” When you ask him, he will tell you the statement is valid in cooking and life in general. The expression also fits the diverse composition of his days working with OHCM collections for the past 23 years.

In Briley’s role at the museum, he has seen, touched, and researched some of the gems from the OHS collection. He is a master storyteller, often letting the provenance of the items unfold the rich stories of their origins to a curious public. His tours ranged from explaining the imagery of the most significant OHS artifact—an 1852 Lakota buffalo-hide tipi, to cameras used in documenting the Dust Bowl years, or discussing the television characters HoHo the Clown and Pokey of 1960s KOCO television fame.

Over the years, Briley has kept the public interest through countless interviews and tours while meeting with OHS’s mission objectives.

The employees at OHS wonder what his retirement will look like, as he has already lived in a log cabin, skinned a buffalo, worn out a pair of wool britches in the 1993 OHS reenactment of a cavalry ride from Fort Reno to Enid, leaped from horseback onto a moving train, sailed on the North Sea with a crew from the Scottish Fisheries Museum, and rescued several birds of prey and a pelican.

Perhaps he will experience occasional successes in repairing vintage Jaguar engines or share more time with those elusive trout?

From the Collection: Tie one on!

By Jeffrey Briley

Winter in Oklahoma may well be described by the Lou Reed lyric: “You can’t depend on the worst always happening.” Children learn the cruel lesson that in Oklahoma, despite the setting of all winter-themed children’s books, the arrival of Christmas does not necessarily equate to snow. In central Oklahoma, many of the implements of winter recreation recline in dusty corners in anticipation of the aberrant storm or await lashing to a roof rack for a drive elsewhere. The Oklahoma History Center Museum collections include three objects with three things in common: they are only helpful in the winter; each one attests to a moment in a technological timeline, and each must be attached to footwear.

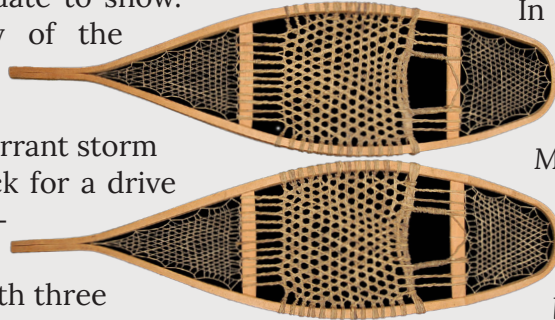
This line of thought began by walking into the OHCM registrar’s office. The worktable was adorned with the latest donations as museum staff document, number, and process the collections. Among the artifacts donated by Susan Carpenter Pettit was a stencil kit for marking oil storage tanks for the Prairie Pipeline Company when they became part of Sinclair Oil Company. What arrested my eye, reclined next to the kit, was a pair of B & B ice skates. During the Civil War, Everett Barney was superintendent of small arms manufacturing for a military contractor, but at some point, his mind wandered to ice skating.



Living in Massachusetts, Barney disliked the cumbersome way skates were strapped to shoes and devised an all-metal skate clamped on in one easy motion. By the war’s end, Barney had set up manufacturing and produced up to 600,000 pairs per year. Barney & Berry ice skates helped fuel recreational skating enthusiasm into the 20th century. Susan Pettit recalls that, in the 1930s, when winter iced over the ponds near Sasakwa, her father would clamp on his skates and pull young Susan around in a washtub. Ice skates have been in use for a very long time. One of the surprising discoveries in the archaeology of the Viking age in York, England, was the excavation of a workshop to manufacture ice skates.

As a transportation device, snowshoes have an even more extended history. Although use in Asia began perhaps 4,000

years ago, we tend to more closely recognize Indigenous snowshoes and later by northern hunters/trappers. The idea of snowshoeing for fun seems at least as old as the establishment of the Montreal Snowshoe Club in 1840, for distinguished gentlemen to get together, tromp around, breathe healthful air, and discuss the future of Canada.



In 1950s Oklahoma, our exposure to snowshoes tended to be *Boy’s Life Magazine* or the thrilling adventures of *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon* on television.

In 1911, H.R. Putnam donated the Museum’s single pair of snowshoes, labeled as Chippewa, from his years of living in the Northern US. Mr. Putnam would hardly recognize today’s recreational snowshoe made from super lightweight graphite, aluminum alloys, nylon, and polyester instead of wood and rawhide. Snowshoeing, in all but the rarest occasions, remains a sport Oklahomans go elsewhere to pursue. Today, the average winter outdoor catalog includes some sort of cleats that attach to the boot for traction on ice and snow. For mountaineering, the demands for secure footholds on ice are such that the attached device looks more like villainous apparel from a work of post-apocalyptic fiction.

Crampons strap onto climbing boots, generally containing ten steel spikes pointing down and two forward spikes to stab into the ice for a hold on a vertical section. The crampons in the OHCM collection were donated years after I wore them for some general winter mountaineering in northern Wales and are of the classic simple steel variety. The latest crampons have become highly technical modernist gear to go along with the specialization of ice climbing as a sport. Today, no winter-glazed waterfall or spillway outflow is safe from climbers looking for a workout close to home.

Winter sports remain a matter of personal taste. When the temperature drops and snow appears, many Oklahomans cling to indoors and think of warmer times.



For others, those circumstances are an invitation for fun and activity. Some years, Oklahoma winter weather accommodates us all.

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PERIODICALS

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Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of Negro Leagues Baseball exhibit opens in February

On Tuesday, February 6, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) will open the exhibit *Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of the Negro Leagues* which tells the complex history of Negro Leagues baseball. It is a truly American story, full of aspiration, injustice, triumph, and complexity. The interactive exhibit explores the history of Black baseball through chronological chapters. From the beginning, the leagues had their roots in racism, the so-called “gentleman’s agreement” that effectively shut Black ballplayers out of big league competition for the first half of the 20th century. The leagues also provided a structure for Black agency and entrepreneurship. In February 1920, African American team owners convened at a YMCA in Kansas City to form a league of their own, the Negro National League (NNL). The NNL and the other professional Black baseball leagues that followed created a forum where star players could showcase a style of speed and showmanship that would come to characterize the special excitement of Negro League play.

The Negro Leagues remained a robust institution for other Black players until one of their own, the Kansas City Monarchs’ Jackie Robinson, broke Major League Baseball’s color barrier in 1947. Three months later, former Newark Eagles star Larry Doby integrated MLB’s American League.

The success of Robinson, Doby, and other players in the majors stands as an undeniable turning point in the history of American race relations. It also drew the attention of Black communities away from the Negro Leagues. The leagues gradually faded away. And yet, despite their eventual demise, the Negro Leagues defined a critical chapter of baseball’s full story, shining a bright light on scores of Black ballplayers whose greatness might have otherwise, tragically, gone undiscovered.

The exhibit will remain open through Sunday, April 21. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, a not-for-profit organization devoted to the preservation of Negro Leagues baseball history, has organized this traveling exhibition.



Known as the “Dean of Catchers,” **Raleigh “Biz” Mackey** was a master behind the plate. He has been credited with teaching the fine art of catching to Roy Campanella. A lifetime .300 hitter, Mackey played on four All-Star teams and five pennant winners.



Bicentennial of Fort Gibson and Fort Towson

Celebrate the bicentennial of Fort Gibson and Fort Towson with us this year! Both forts were established in 1824 in Indian Territory—and 2024 marks 200 years since their inception.

Fort Gibson was the first US military post in what would become the state of Oklahoma (and it was further west than any other post in the United States at that time). It was located near the confluence of the Verdigris, Neosho (Grand), and Arkansas Rivers.

Fort Towson was established a few weeks after Fort Gibson. Situated near the Red River, Fort Towson initially served as an outpost on the border between the United States and Mexico (present-day Texas). Today, both historic sites are open to the public.

SAVE THE DATES!

- Fort Gibson Historic Site will host a 200th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, April 20.
- Fort Towson Historic Site will host a 200th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 18.

